

- 1: Obermeyer, Gerald Joseph. Structure and authority in a Bedouin tribe: the 'Aishaibat of the Western Desert of Egypt. Dissertation (Anthropology) -- Indiana University, 1968. University Microfilms, Publication, 69-10, 572. Ann Arbor, University Microfilms, 1969 [1973].

3, 13, 344, 1, 1; 10 text figures; 6 tables; bibliography.

HRAF copy.

[This study, based on the data collected by the author during the period of his fieldwork from June 1964 to May 1965, is an analysis of the political structure, authority, and leadership roles in the relatively permanent 'Aishaibat Bedouin coastal community of al-Qasr, near the town of Marsa Matruh in the Western Desert of the United Arab Republic (Egypt). As a background for this political analysis the author presents a general cultural history of the Libyan Bedouin dating from 639 A.D. with the Arab conquests of Egypt up to 1965, at the time of the author's fieldwork. Additional supplementary material relates to social change, land use, land tenure and rights of ownership, kinship and marriage patterns and the specific history of settlement in al-Qasr. Obermeyer draws his data together in a concise summary chapter which concludes this work (p. 320 ff.).]

Field date: 1964-1965

Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5

Processed in 1974

- 2: Mohsen, Safia K. The quest for order among Awlad Ali of the Western Desert of Egypt. Dissertation (Anthropology) -- Michigan State University, 1970. University Microfilms, Publication, 71-31, 266. Ann Arbor, University Microfilms, 1971 [1974].

6, 3, 196 L; glossary; tribal map; bibliography.

HRAF copy.

[This study, based primarily on the author's fieldwork among the Awlad Ali of the Western Desert of Egypt (UAR) between August 1965 and August 1966, deals with the way in which disputes are settled within a tribal society with no centralized political authority. One manner in which this is done is through the application by local political leaders of a set of formal rules or "tribal ways" known as the daraieb." Emphasis in this study, however, is not on the rules themselves but the manner in which they are implemented through judicial reasoning tied to the social and political reality of the group. This procedure is clearly illustrated in the homicide and bodily injury cases presented in chapter six. As a background for the legal and judicial analysis indicated above, Mohsen provides data on the ecological and historical features of the Awlad Ali as a general matrix for the understanding of the group's total context of action. Also presented as background information is a detailed analysis of the tribal organization, political structure and leadership, and marriage as a form of contractual relationship--a factor of some importance in Awad Ali judicial proceedings. The final chapter in the source presents a summary of the author's data and concomitant conclusions.]

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MT9 Libyan Bedouin--2

2: Mohsen

Field date: 1958, 1965-1966

Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist, Lawyer-5

Processed in 1974

3: Evans-Pritchard, Edward Evan. The Sanusi of Cyrenaica. Oxford, At the Clarendon Press, 1949.

8, 240 p.; 4 plates; 13 maps; 2 appendices (including a select bibliography); index.

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[This source, with the exception of chapter 2 which deals with the tribal organization and certain aspects of the general ethnography of the Bedouin of Cyrenaica, is concerned primarily with the origin, development and cultural history of the Sanusi Order--an Order of Sufis who are Sunni or orthodox Muslims--within the Cyrenaican region of Libya. The author traces the development of the Order from its inception in 1837 by the Grand Sanusi Sayyid Muhammad bin 'Ali al-Sanusi through its religious-political role during the Italian-Sanusi wars and subsequent periods of peace (1911-1932) to its final collapse at the end of the second war in 1932. The author, a well-known anthropologist, had the opportunity to study this group during a period of approximately two years (1942-1944) while serving as Political Officer to the third British Military Administration of Cyrenaica.]

Field date: 1942-1944

Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Government Official, Ethnologist-4, 5
Processed in 1974

- 4: Peters, Emrys Lloyd. The proliferation of segments in the lineage of the Bedouin of Cyrenaica [Libya]. In Louise E. Sweet, ed., Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East; An Anthropological Reader. Volume 1: Cultural Depth and Diversity. Garden City, Natural History Press, 1970: 363-398.

HRAF Copy.

[This article discusses in detail the various dynamic socio-cultural processes involved in lineage fragmentation and the resulting development of each segment thus formed. The mechanical processes discussed -- telescoping, fusion of names and extinction of lines -- were found not to affect orders of segmentation higher than that of the tertiary order (small camps or seasonal communities), and in conditions of stable population, these devices alone would be sufficient to retain the form of the genealogical structure. Since conditions of stability in the population cannot be assumed, and as a matter of fact there is generally a marked fluctuation in the population of the tertiary groups, proliferation of such groups is common. Such proliferation is generally induced by the relationship of man and animals to the environment, to the effect that when sufficient pressure develops on natural resources, one group of a divided segment must move off to seek land and water elsewhere. The author then attempts to demonstrate how these changes have actually occurred in the genealogies of the Cyrenaican Bedouin over the years.]

Field date: 1948-1950

Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5

Processed in 1974

- 5: Peters, Emrys Lloyd. Some structural aspects of the feud among the camel-herding Bedouin of Cyrenaica. Africa, 37 (1967): 261-282. London, International African Institute, 1967.

HRAF Copy.

[In this article the author analyzes internal disturbances, in terms of Bedouin social organization, precipitated by homicide, using a lineage model as a framework for his discussion. The arrangement of data collected here corresponds closely to the Bedouin's own ideas of their relationships. The lineage model then comes under the author's scrutiny with the result that he believes because of the fact it does not cover several important areas of social relationships, nor is it an accurate predictor of possible future events, it should be abandoned. This is especially true since the model is not a sociologically oriented one, but instead is really a frame of reference used by particular people as a means of gaining a commonsense knowledge of their own social relationships. The author then turns his attention to the role of the feud--a set of hostile relationships between tribal groups--which cannot be terminated, but at best can be understood in part by reference to the ordered division of the tribal organization. The political structure is then discussed to some length including quite a bit of information on the integrative function of marriage in tying agnatic groups together.]

Field date: 1948-1950

Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5

Processed in 1974

- 6: Peters, Emrys Lloyd. Aspects of the family among the Bedouin of Cyrenaica. In Meyer F. Nimkoff, ed., Comparative Family Systems. Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1965: 121-146.

HRAF copy.

[In this source the author presents a survey of certain specific aspects of Cyrenaican Bedouin family life which he observed while in the field over a twenty-seven month period between 1948-1950. Although much of the data collected deal with patterns of marriage, there are some other very interesting bits of information here on the father-son relationship, the sister's son-mother's brother relationship, authority diversification between the lineage/ community and the family, the preference for males in the society, division of labor by sex, the Bedouin ideal family type as a unit of production, a detailed discussion of the composition of a particular camp, and economic, kinship and other factors affecting camp structure.]

Field date: 1948-1950

Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5

Processed in 1974

- 7: Abou-Zeid, Ahmad M. The sedentarization of nomads in the Western Desert of Egypt. International Social Science Journal, 11 (1959): 550-558. Paris, UNESCO, 1959.

Yale: N10 In77 11.

[This source is a brief sketch of the various programs the Egyptian Government has devised for settling the nomads of the Western Desert and of the effects noted so far. Abou-Zeid briefly discusses three projects: the Wadi-el-Natrun project, which is developing salt and soda resources and establishing of new industry; the Qattara Depression project which will improve the environment by filling the depression with water from the Mediterranean; and the Ras-el-Hikma project, which is designed to improve the grazing potentialities of the Western Desert. Some projections of the effects of these programs on the life and culture of the Bedouin are given.]

Field date: no date
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Anthropologist - 5
Processed in 1974-1975

- 8: Kennett, Austin. Bloodmoney--Western Desert. In his Bedouin Justice; Laws and Customs among the Egyptian Bedouin. Cambridge, At the University Press, 1925: 60-78.

Yale: P70 K394 925.

[This source presents a study of the laws relevant to the paying of bloodmoney among the Libyan Bedouin occupying the western desert region of the United Arab Republic. The author gathered his data while serving as British Administrative Officer in the Libyan Desert around the year 1921. The major work from which this chapter was taken deals with the general topic of Bedouin justice and therefore covers other Bedouin groups--the Sinai Arabs, Eastern Desert and additional Western Desert Bedouins--outside the scope of the immediate file focus. This particular source contains several case histories illustrating the violation of Bedouin legal norms particularly in reference to the taking of human life and the resulting payment of bloodmoney as settlement of the debt so incurred. Interesting insights are found throughout the source on concepts of liability, legal norms and judicial procedures.]

Field date: ca. 1921

Analysts: John Beierle, marker
Martin Malone, checker

Evaluation: Government Official - 5

Processed in 1974-1975

- 9: Murray, George William. The Western Bedouin (El Mugharba). In his Sons of Ishmael; A Study of the Egyptian Bedouin. London, George Routledge and Sons, 1935: 271-283.

2 plates.

Yale: Nkd76 935m.

[Although this source is somewhat deficient in over-all ethnographic coverage it does present a general background on the cultural history and tribal organization of the Western Bedouin settled in the northern and western portions of the United Arab Republic. Primary emphasis is placed on the history and tribal organization of the Awlad 'Ali, with some additional data on the Jumei 'at, the Samalus and the Shiheibat.]

Field date: ca. 1910-1935

Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist, Geographer -3,4

Processed in 1974